WHIRRAKEE

April 2009 Vol. 30 No. 3

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH4462

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2008 - 2009

President	Glenise Moors		54396254
Senior Vice President	Richard Goonan		0423 418815
Junior Vice President	Matthew Comer		0409 162627
Secretary	Anne Bridley		5449 3479
Minute Secretary	Jan Orr		5443 5668
Treasurer	Rob Moors		54396254
Membership Officer	Anne Bridley		5449 3479
Excursion organiser	Richard Goonan		0423 418815
Syllabus organiser	Ben Goonan		
Librarian	Diana Collier	(an assistant is still required)	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer		0409 162 627
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis		0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The meeting starts with a 10 minute thing-of-the night natural history segment. The invited speaker starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Bob Ruddick, Ben Goonan, Liz Graham, Diana Collier. *More committee members are urgently sought, see page 3.*

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. Several interclub field naturalist campouts are held every year.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one sub-group (the Fauna Study Group) and is actively involved in local conservation issues. An **indigenous garden** has been established around the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building. Working bees are advertised on the *Whirrakee* diary page.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observing: Club members conduct regular bird surveys. Please contact Anne Bridley 5449 3479 or Glenise Moors 5439 6254 for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose bird observing excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 30, No. 3, April 2009
Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.

Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
Autumn in Bendigo is a very special season. Although terribly dry, some trees are actually putting out new growth! How do they do this? What are they drawing on? I was asked this question lately by Rob Clark from the DPI, who is working on groundwater dependent ecosystems. Any ideas for an answer are welcome. In fact, any contributions are welcome.
I do hope that many of us can make it to the next general meeting, when Alan Yen will tell us whether or not to eat the bugs around Bendigo. I am guessing you might have to sit on the floor, if you are late.

Front Page Illustration – Photographer: Karen Thomas
This photograph shows Karen's family of Choughs on that infamous Black Saturday. There are 8 on this bath, the other 3 are on the ground waiting to have their go. Their open beaks and tolerance of crowded conditions illustrates many of the reports about bird behaviours during that time (see the March edition of the *Whirrakee*).

Short notices

April General Meeting – Preview

Alan Yen (Department of Primary Industries) will talk about **'Bugs around Bendigo and should we eat bugs?'**

Outline: Alan Yen will present some information on recent invertebrate research projects in the Bendigo region that he has been involved with. This includes the Parks Victoria box-ironbark thinning project and also an experiment on the effects of aerial spraying for plague locusts on non-target invertebrates. He will then discuss something completely different to help members of the audience who haven't eaten their dinner before the meeting: should we eat insects? Western nations are the only ones that do not currently have insects as part of their normal diet. Insects are a readily available source of protein, and greater utilisation of insects in our diet could help environmental conservation in the longer term.

More Committee members needed

by Anne Bridley, BFNC secretary

For BFNC committee meetings, we need to have a quorum. If meetings in any one month are non-quorate, they cannot proceed. To avoid such situations, we need another couple of members so that any essential club business can be done. So we now have an opportunity for younger or newer members to have their say in this vital aspect of running our club.
Contact Anne Bridley (5449 3479) or Glenise Moors (54396254) for more information.

New Online Journal – **' Journal of Threatened Taxa'** *(sent in by Darren Green)*
Totally open access, monthly, peer-reviewed and global, was launched on January 26 and is available at http://www.threatenedtaxa.org/

There will be a

Garden Working Bee

on the 4th April (this Sat) at 9am

It will mainly be focussed on trimming and tidying plants that suffered during the hot dry weather and a general spruce up for the garden. If people have secateurs and gloves they could bring them. I will supply some bags. One advantage of the dry conditions is that there are very few weeds- a small bonus.

Everybody is welcome
We also will have some morning tea

Field Naturalist Club of Victoria Environment Fund.

The fund supports projects, which research, protect and spread information about Victoria's biodiversity. Donations are tax-deductable and 100% of donations go to the projects selected.

Applications for grants of between $200 and $1000 for 2009 close on 17th April.

Enquiries Helen ph 06 9877 9860 or fncv@vicnet.net.au

Victoria – State of Environment Report Regional Information Session - Invitation

Bill Holsworth received an invitation from the NCCMA to this session. Dr. Ian McPhail, Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability will present key findings from the report and respond to queries. No doubt, more than one BFNC representative is welcome, so this invitation is extended to all interested members.
Date: Tuesday 7 April 20009, 3pm - 5pm preceded by afternoon tea at 2;30 and followed by light refreshments.
Venue: Capital Theatre, Bendigo
Any questions, please phone 5448 7124
email: info@nccma.vic.gov.au

March Observations

Richards Campground, Mt Cole Sunday March 1, 2009, Anne Bridley

Jane Cleary and myself had a pleasant walk through the Blue Gum forest up to a dry waterfall. Birds were not particularly plentiful, but there were a couple of good patches, in particular in a swampy area near the main carpark. There was a small amount of blossom. As we walked up the track to the falls, we could hear a piping moving through the undergrowth parallel to us. Then an agitated Eastern Spinebill started hopping from bush to bush. Its baby was found at the base of a gum. It was so young that it didn't even have tail feathers. Very cute.

Other birds observed were:

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Long-billed Corella, Crimson Rosella, Golden Whistler, White-throated Treecreeper, Grey Shrike-thrush, Scarlet Robin, Spotted Pardalote, Silvereye, Brown Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, White-browed Scrubwren, Grey Fantail, Mistletoebird, Red Wattlebird, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, White-winged Chough, Grey Currawong.

Other March observations recorded by Jan Orr at the March general meeting

Matthew Comer
On Saturday February 28, he saw a Crested Bellbird at Crusoe Reservoir. It wasn't calling and was perched on a low branch of a Yellow Box.

Elaine Doling
She has not seen the Tawny Frogmouths she reported on last month for at least 2 weeks. However she still has Grey Currawongs, Blue Faced Honeyeaters, Magpies and Eastern Rosellas visiting her property. In addition she recently saw a Little Eagle twice as it flew over her yard and a Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring quite high in the sky over her house.
She went to the mullock heaps at the end of Stone St. 7 days after the 7.2.2009 fire and saw very many Blue Wrens.

Margaret Kane
In Friswell Avenue there are vacant blocks of land belonging to Mr Hesse on this street and on most mornings 8 kangaroos can be seen there. This land has been approved for subdivision for about the last 20 years but as Mr Hesse died last year the development may now go ahead. The Kangaroos come in from the One Tree Hill Area.

Bev. Leeson
This evening, as she parked the car in Old High St, to come to the meeting, she looked back and there was a kangaroo bouncing along the footpath towards her. It saw her when she crossed the road and bounced on towards Safeway. She hopes it made it to a safe bushy place.

A friend from Spring Gully has told her that a flock of Rainbow Lorikeets have been seen in her area recently.

Work has started to revegetate the wetlands behind the Quest Apartments in Kangaroo Flat with the view to creating habitat suitable for frogs and other water loving animals.

Ralph Moran
A patch of Wheel Cactus growing in the path of the Long Gully fire on 7.3.2009 was severely heat damaged and drooped in an interesting shape like a Salvador Dali clock. It will be interesting to keep an eye on it to see if it can survive fire.

Bruce Mainka
In the Break-of-day bushland for 2 mornings in a row a Wedge-tailed Eagle was seen flying low over the trees. A day later he found the remains of a hare and wondered if Wedge-tails prey on hares?
Members agreed that this was likely as hares have become very common.

Glenise Moors
Two weeks ago she saw 2 Wedge-tailed Eagles flying over her home at Sedgwick. It is unusual to see them there as they seem to prefer to hunt over the hills of Harcourt North.

There have been reports of Black Kites flying over the recently burnt areas of Eaglehawk.
Erskins Reserve, near Stuart Mill is a good place to see birds, particularly in the winter and spring. She saw Hooded Robins there recently.

Summer Bird Count at the Bendigo Waste-water Treatment Plant
Wednesday Feb. 25 2009, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Count undertaken by BFNC and BOCA, Echuca Branch. (Warm, clear, sunny day with a light breeze.). The birds seen were:

1. The ponds beside Wallenjoe Rd.

Australian Spotted Crake	Eurasian Coot
Black-tailed Hen	Dusky Moorhen
Purple Swamphen	Pacific Black Duck
Galah	Eastern Rosella
Red-rumped Parrot	Noisy Miner
Australian Magpie	Australian Raven
Little Raven	Australian Hobby

2. The ponds, islands, waterside and surrounding bush, Wastewater Treatment Plant

Hoary-headed Grebe	Pelican
Pied Cormorant	White-faced heron
Sacred Ibis	Straw-necked Ibis
Yellow Spoonbill	Black Swan
Australian Shelduck	Pacific Black Duck
Grey Teal	Chestnut Teal
Australasian Shoveller	Hardhead
Musk Duck	Whistling Kite
Collared Sparrowhawk	Little Eagle
Marsh Harrier	Brown Falcon
Masked Lapwing	Red-kneed Dotterel
Black-fronted Dotterel	Red-capped Plover
Black-winged Stilt	Red-necked Stint
Silver Gull	Peaceful Dove
Crested Pigeon	Musk Lorikeet
Horsfields Bronze-cuckoo	Sacred Kingfisher
Rainbow Bee-eater	Welcome Swallow
Tree Martin	Fairy Martin
Blackbird	Crested Shrike-tit
Rufous Whistler	Grey Shrike-thrush
Restless Flycatcher	Willie Wagtail
Clamourous Reed-warbler	Little Grassbird
Superb Fairy-wren	White-browed Scrub-wren
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Brown Thornbill
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Fuscous Honeyeater
White-plumed Honeyeater	Mistletoebird
Spotted Pardalote	Striated Pardalote
Silvereye	Red-browed Firetail
Common Starling	Common Myna
Dusky Woodswallow	Australian Magpie
Lark	Grey Butcherbird

March General Meeting: Richard Hughes
'The emergence of large scale nature conservation projects - a west Victorian perspective'

by Jenny Shield/Sabine Wilkens

Habitat 141, the biggest ever environmental restoration project in Victoria, spans three states. It extends from the SA and NSW outback to the ocean. In Victoria, the area covers a broad belt stretching north-south between east of Mildura, past east of Horsham to end east of Portland. This belt extends into NSW and is virtually mirrored by the border into the SA side of both states.

The plan is to restore, rivers, wetlands and bushland and reconnect existing protected and remnant patches of natural habitat. Areas in Victoria include the Grampians, the Wimmera River System, which contains rare remnant grasslands, part of the Murray river system, the Victorian Volcanic Plains, as well as the outback parks south west of Mildura (Wyperfeld, Murray Sunset and Little Desert) Many of these areas have high biodiversity or are characterised by having a large number of threatened species.

Questions to be answered are 'What do we need to do, to maintain or allow recovery of species like the Buloke Mistletoe, the Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo, the Long-Nosed Potoroo, the Bush Stone Curlew, the Yellow-bellied Glider, Spotted tailed Quoll and Southern Nosed Bandicoot, as well as the Masked the Powerful Owls?' Many of these species are keystone species, whose disappearance would have a disproportionally large effect on all the rest of the ecosystem.

This is a huge task, as we have so little baseline data. We do have some, however, and the project is building on such past knowledge and also on past achievements. The great success of 'Project Hindmarsh' serves as an inspiration and solid foundation to all involved. In this project, the Big and Little Desert National Park have been successfully connected by plantings over the last ten years.

Greening Australia is one the major movers in Habitat 141, a 50 year project, but many other organizations are heavily involved. VNPA, Victoria Naturally Alliance, Trust for Nature, the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Wilderness Society, Environment Victoria and many more.

Together, they have begun investigating and acquiring blocks of degraded or marginal farmland for restoration. Alternatively, they will come to useful covenant agreements with landholders, and then intensively plant these areas. In parallel, existing bushland needs restoring and river vegetation needs re-establishing, all to allow increased movement of animals between what are presently small islands of habitat. Some of this revegetation will and has already been completed using Carbon offset money.

So, revegetation of cleared areas, in order to get function back into them, is the core business of this project. To judge the success of it, it is very important that monitoring and record keeping has the highest priority.

Several members mentioned the importance of corridors in more local situations. Bill Holsworth said that corridors around Bendigo are important for maintenance of phascogales, and that they need to cross fire breaks. John Lindner mentioned that the linking up of vegetation for the benefit of Regent Honey-eaters near Benalla is showing positive results (see notice on page 8 for your chance to contribute to this project)

Why the name, Habitat 141? '141' is the longitude that parallels the Victorian-South Australian border.

This is a bold and strategic landscape initiative indeed. Fingers crossed that the energy of the people involved will be sustained by small successes along the way.

Interactive website to help develop Alpine national parks management plan

From "Land and Water News: An independent regular new roundup, January 28th, 2009, Hallmark Editions"

sent in by Richard Goonan

The Victorian Government has launched a website that will be used as the platform for public consultation on the future management of the state's Alpine national parks.

Parks Victoria's 'wePlan Alpine' website will use innovative and interactive communications applications such as wiki technology, blogs and interactive web-based mapping to help develop the next management plan for the National Heritage Listed Alpine Country.

The blog will enable those interested in the parks to contribute their ideas and opinions about their management.

The wiki technology will be used to create the draft plan in mid-2009, allowing the community to contribute to the editing of the plan. Parks Victoria will complete a table of contents and some basic information, while the community will be able to edit the majority of the plan.

Another of the online tools is the 'Public Participatory Geographic Information System', an interactive web-based program where members can identify and map the places they value and identify management issues. The website can be viewed at www.weplan.parks.vic.gov.au.

The Alpine Parks Management Plan will cover an area of more than 860,000 hectares, including the Alpine, Baw Baw, Mount Buffalo, Errinundra and Snowy River national parks as well as the Avon Wilderness Park, Walhalla and adjacent historic parks.

February General Meeting – Speaker Nick Roberts

Red Gum Icons Project

Nick Roberts works for the Victorian National Parks Association, and is based in Shepparton. One of his biggest concerns has been the River Red Gum Campaign based around the Barmah Forest.

The project started in 2002, when it was launched by Peter Garrett. It was aimed at permanently protecting Australia' s (and the world's) largest river red gum forests and associated wetlands In this quest, the VNPA was supported by the Victorian Environment Assessment Council (VEAC) and many other organisations and 100 000 ha of new National Park were proposed with funding planned to be concentrated at several special iconic sites.

During the preparation process, the perceived threats were collected from submissions. Nick summarised them on a power point slide, but they were so numerous that the print was minute and none could be read at a distance. Most people know what they are, however - logging, cattle grazing, weed invasions, changed water regime, climate change, to name just a few.

Perceived values were also summarised and these include important national and international bird migration sites, waterbird nesting sites, habitat for many rare and endangered species, cultural significance and many others.

The VEAC study, to accumulate information such as the above, commenced in 2005, and

there were a total of three formal rounds for submissions. Overall 9000 submissions were received and there were a multitude of other consultations with community groups.

This very lengthy process culminated in the final VEAC recommendations to create five new National Parks, plus a number of other parks. Logging and grazing was to be excluded with some other planned changes to their management, but there was very little recommended change for recreational uses like camping and fishing.

The government did not accept these initial recommendations, but instead, formed yet another consultative committee, the Community Engagement Panel. After further discussions, another report finally resulted in the establishment of 104 000ha of new and extended National Park area.

A 38 million dollar package came with this result, to be used as exit money for the logging industry, to employ additional rangers and to undertake fencing and ecological thinning programs.

Logging will continue to be allowed in much of the Gunbower Forest, however, and many people were unhappy with this and other final decisions. So overall, a somewhat deflating end result, which means the campaign work needs to go on.

Nick Roberts maintained that the VNPA will continue with this conservation work, but is hoping that protection of the Gunbower Forest can be approached from other angles, may be with more success. Overall he thought, however that we do need to make compromises all the time, and that people should focus on the gains, not just on the disappointments.

One of the difficulties in dealing with management issues in this area is that many of the forests in question extend over two states, Victoria and New South Wales, and the relevant legislation in both states is often different. The logging industry in NSW, in Nick Robert's words, approaches industrial proportions, it is so big. So even if the Victorian conservation movement had had a complete victory on its side of the river, what happens over the other side is still vitally important for the overall protection of these areas. In Habitat 141, the project described by Richard Hughes at the March general meeting (see p. 4), three states are involved!

Snippets from 'Friends Network News No 66 - February 2009', *the quarterly newsletter from the Victorian Environment Friends Network*

via Stuart Fraser

Exploring The Fungi Kingdom Workshop – Woodend

25 or 26 April @ 11am-4:30pm, Woodend Neighbourhood House

Fungi are a fascinating and unusual group of organisms in which there is a growing interest in Australia. The remarkable diversity of species, colours, forms and lifestyles has inspired interest in their biology, ecology and edibility worldwide.
Workshop includes an illustrated seminar focusing on the ecology, identification, natural and cultural history of fungi. Will also include visit into a variety of local forests to search for species of interest. There will also be a display of local specimens and resources, as well as opportunity to partake in active discussion.
Cost: $60
Additional workshops in the central highlands region on 2, 3, 5 &16 May 2009

More information from Alison Pouliot at: info@alisonpouliot.com

Notice of new VEAC Investigation

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) has been requested to carry out an investigation of Crown land and public authority land outside of largely-intact landscapes across Victoria to identify opportunities for ecological linkages. The purposes of the investigation are to:

(a) identify and evaluate the condition, values, resources and uses of these areas of remnant native vegetation and associated fauna outside largely-intact landscapes;

(b) assess these areas for their connectivity and contribution to sustainable landscapes in relation to climate change;

(c) report on the contribution of these areas of remnant native vegetation to biodiversity conservation, recreation activities, community uses, commercial opportunities, services and utilities in the context of improving connectivity with largely-intact landscapes and freehold land; and

(d) report on opportunities for management to achieve improved ecological connectivity.

The Council will prepare a discussion paper during 2009 and a final report by March 2010.

Written submissions are invited from interested groups and individuals for consideration in the development of the discussion paper. These should be sent to
Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
Level 6, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002.
or by email to: veac@dse.vic.gov.au

Submission period closes 4 May 2009. The Minister's request including full terms of reference, see: http://www.veac.vic.gov.au/ or phone 1800 134 803

Biodiversity Across Borders Conference – Ballarat, 19 June 2009
University of Ballarat, Mt Helen Campus
Theme: "Maintaining biodiversity in the face of current environmental change"
This third one-day Biodiversity Across the Borders conference is to be conducted by Uni of Ballarat, La Trobe, Deakin, Victoria and Charles Sturt Unis to "show case" the ecological work of the unis in regional Victoria and adjacent New South Wales, both to other ecologists and to management agencies.
Cost: small registration fee for attending this conference. Morning & afternoon tea, & lunch provided.

If interested in attending or presenting at the conference please provide contact detail (email preferred) to Dr. S. K. Florentine (Florry) at: s.florentine@ballarat.edu.au or phone 5327 9231 and a full program will be forwarded on when available.

Moths of Victoria – Part 1 Silk Moths and Allies - Bombycoidea
The first publication in a series of 12 by Landcare volunteer, Peter Marriott.
Just released. Moths of Victoria Part 1 includes an amazing collection of colour photographs contained within a beautifully crafted layout. Both the book and CD provide an excellent and novel reference for field identification suitable for scientists and student alike; a great addition to the available literature addressing the natural history of Victoria.

Moths of Victoria Part 1 is available for $10 (for Entomological Society of Victoria members) or $12 for non-members. Order via email at: vicmoth@entsocvic.org.au

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From: Victoria Naturally Alliance ebulletin No 20 - March 2009

via Stuart Fraser

Common bird populations hit by sharp decline
Common and widespread birds in Australia are showing a dramatic and sharp decline,
Birds Australia has revealed in its sixth *State of Australia's Birds* report.

Launched by Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett late last month, the report warned that populations of common species such as the Jacky Winter and Hooded Robin are falling in Victoria, NSW, the ACT and Queensland. It also found that the number of robins, thornbills, fantails, treecreepers and other small insectivores, particularly those that feed on or near the ground, are decreasing in various south-east woodlands.
Other findings include:

Numbers of eastern Australian waterbirds in general, and some resident shorebirds, in particular, have fallen significantly. Fire is proving an increasing threat to birds of isolated forests and heathlands, such as the northern Eastern Bristlebird, Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Whipbird and Mallee Emu-wren.
Continuing clearing of old growth native forest in Tasmania, nesting habitat of the endangered Swift Parrot and other threatened species, is a national disgrace, particularly in the face of climate change.
Habitat loss is the single greatest threat to birds, both because of the legacy of past clearing and the continuing overall loss and degradation of what remains. Other major threats include overgrazing, predation by foxes and cats, over-extraction of and barriers to water flows (e.g., by small and large-scale dams), increasing human pressure and climate change.
Read more
http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/homepage-news/minister-launches-soab.html
State of Australia's Birds report – Birds Australia

Nest box monitoring weekend - help secure wildlife for the future
The Regent Honeyeater Project near Benalla has a fabulous nest box weekend planned for April.
Now in its eleventh year the project has been highly successful in creating habitat for Squirrel Gliders and Sugar Gliders and is even reporting finds of the distinctive nests of rare Brush-tailed Phascogales.
Placing nest boxes in the region helps make up for the lack of tree-bearing hollows and creates crucial homes for growing populations of native animals.
The weekend will be held on 25-26 April. To find out more and to book your spot go to **http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/nest-box.php**
or phone Ray Thomas on (03) 5761 1515

Speaker Syllabus for February – July 2009

DATE	PRESENTER	TITLE
8/4/09	ALAN YEN	Bugs around Bendigo, and should we eat bugs?
13/5/09	LYNDA CHAMBERS	Flora, fauna, climate change and community science: How you can help
10/6/09	RICHARD GOONAN	What happened to our Creekline Grassy Wodlands?
8/7/09	NICK CLEMANN	Snake management in Victoria

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, April 8 **7.30pm**
Alan Yen will speak about the 'Bugs around Bendigo, and should we eat bugs?' See page 3

Wednesday, May 13 **7.30pm**
Lynda Chambers is our speaker, her title is: 'Flora, fauna, climate change and community science: How you can help?'

Excursions
Contact Richard Goonan if you have any comments, questions or suggestions for excursions (ph 0423418815).

Fauna Group
This group normally meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. However, the next couple of meetings are held out of doors. New and seasoned Club members most welcome to attend.

Regular Fauna Excursions
Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Garden Working Bee

4th April, 9am
If you have any secateurs and gloves, could you please bring them? Morning tea provided.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

Activities organized by 'Friends of Kooyoora'

Weekend Campout Activity
18th – 19th April 2009
at Gunter and Judy's property.
A map is supplied so please contact the editor if interested. The activities include spotlighting and cactus eradication as well as walking and socializing.
BYO food/drink/camping gear

Eastern Walking Track Extension Work Day 17th May 2009

Exploring the Wehla Block 21st June 2009

Indigenous Heritage Day 19th July 2009
For the last three activities, meet at 10.30am at the Melville Caves picnic area. And BYO picnic lunch

2009 Kooyoora Wildflower Show
18th – 20th September
Rheola Hall
More details closer to the date.

Australian Plants in the 21st Century
GEELONG □26th September to 2nd October 2009.Interesting talks, excursions and guided tours EVERYONE WELCOME □If you have a passion for native plants, join us in Geelong - We'd love to show you aroundASGAP2009 - Proudly hosted by APS (Australian Plants Society) Victoria

see February *Whirrakee*, or, for even more information go to:
http://asgap2009.apsvic.org.au/ or
http://asgap2009.apsvic.org.au/index.html